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1979-1981

PUBLIC DEFENDER

OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

BIENNIAL REPORT
1979/80 - 1980/81

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WILBUR F. LITTLEFIELD
PUBLIC DEFENDER

PREFACE

This Biennial Report for 1979/80 - 1980/81 includes data reflecting the growth in activities for the Public Defender for the 6-year period 1975/76 - 1980/81. The additional data indicate the substantial changes which have expanded the provision of public defender legal services as a result of legislation and Appellate Court decisions.

WILBUR F. LITTLEFIELD
Public Defender

BIENNIAL REPORT 1979/80 - 1980/81

The Public Defender provides legal representation to all persons, including juveniles, who are financially unable to furnish counsel for court proceedings. Services include representation in criminal, juvenile, mental health, and civil proceedings. The legal authorization for the Public Defender operation is provided in Government Code Sections 27700-27711, and County Charter Article IV Section 14 and Article VI Section 23.

In 1980/81, the Public Defender provided services to a County court system consisting of approximately 271 courts involved in criminal proceedings and to civil courts, as well as appellate services to the State court system. These services were provided from 40 Public Defender office locations.

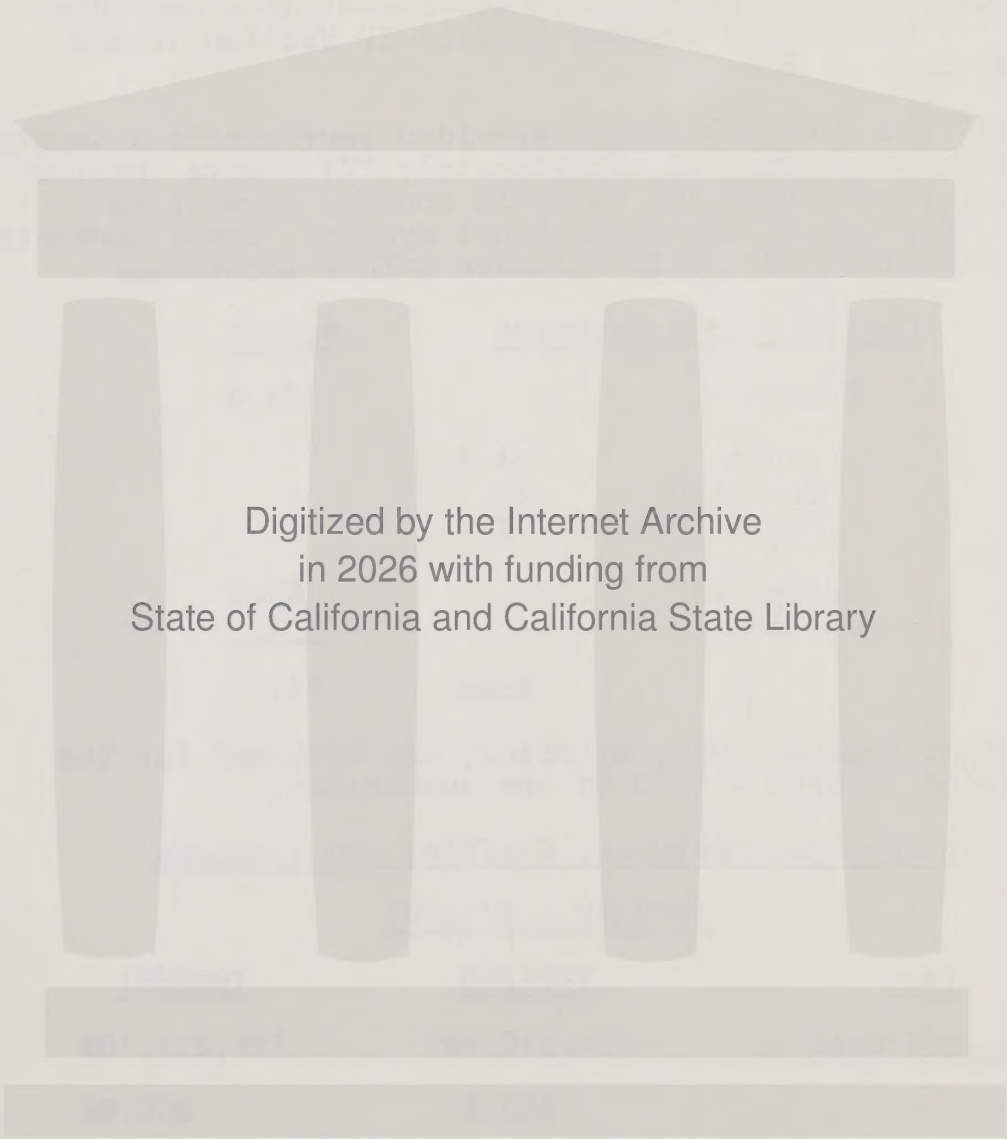
County Courts Serviced		Number
Superior		104.5
Adult	74.5	
Juvenile	28	
Mental Health	2	
Municipal		165.5
Justice		1
	Total	271

Direct Budget Expenditures, Staffing, and Workload for the report period 1979/80 - 1980/81 are summarized.

Budget Expenditures, Staffing and Workload

1979/80 - 1980/81

Item	1979/80	1980/81
Budget Expenditures	$24,916,481	$26,225,108
Staffing	568.2	566.86
Workload		
Case/Proceedings	234,090	261,737
Investigations	10,785	10,071



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Workload Trends

After hitting an all-time high in 1975/76, workload declined for a 3-year period in direct proportion to the decrease in attorney staff.

In 1979/80 budgeted positions which had been cut as a result of Proposition 13 were restored, and workload again began to increase. Workload in 1979/80 increased 15.5% from the prior year and increased an additional 11.5% in 1980/81. All major indicators of workload experienced increases during this period. Felony Arraignment/Preliminary Hearings increased 14.9% in 1979/80 and 17.5% in 1980/81. Arraignment/Trials in Superior Court experienced increases of 4.9% and 13.3%. Workload in Misdemeanor Traffic increased 17.3% in 1979/80 and 13.1% in 1980/81 while Misdemeanor Arraignment/Trials increased 6.8% and 6.5% during the same periods.

Perhaps the greatest percent increase occurred in Mental Health where increases of 13.9% and 80.5% were experienced.

Staffing

Attorney staffing fluctuated during the period 1975/76 to 1980/81. In 1975/76 the attorney staffing was 412 positions but was reduced in two subsequent years to the point of 363 positions. In 1979/80 approximately 27 positions were restored to the budget. The attorney staffing in 1980/81 was 390.53 positions. Clerical and investigative support staff remained fairly constant during the period.

Productivity Improvements

The Public Defender has actively sought productivity improvements and cost reductions during the reporting period. Programs designed to increase productivity and reduce cost are as follows:

Contracting

Under the contract provisions of the Department of Personnel and Purchasing & Stores, the Department began contracting for secretarial services on January 20, 1981. The contracts were designed to relieve staff shortage situations in four locations.

Case Data Retrieval Service (LEXIS)

A case data retrieval service (LEXIS) was provided by the California Public Defenders' Association for 6 months in 1980. Attempts to have the system funded were unsuccessful and the service was discontinued in 1981.

Violent Offender Training Program

On March 1, 1979, the Public Defender instituted the Violent Offender Training Program. The program, a LEAA-funded grant, provided training for criminal defense attorneys on various aspects of violent crimes. The biweekly programs were presented by experts on subjects where limited published material existed or where research is complex and difficult.

The program was designed to increase defense attorney skills and contribute to decreasing delays in processing cases. Grant funding of the program ended on November 7, 1980. The program was deemed a success and was continued utilizing existing staff and equipment.

APPELLATE WORKLOAD BY TYPE OF PROCESS

1975/76 - 1980/81

Proceeding	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	1978/79	1979/80 (Report Period)	1980/81 (Report Period)
Felony Appeals - Court of Appeals/ Cal. Supreme	449	465	547	362	393	318
Misd. Appeals/ Sup. Ct.	371	433	309	272	397	519
Total	820	898	856	634	790	837

Appellate Section

The Appellate Section prosecutes appeals to a higher court when it is reasonably expected to result in the reversal or modification of the judgment of conviction.

CIVIL WORKLOAD BY TYPE OF PROCESS

1975/76 - 1980/81

Proceeding	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	1978/79	1979/80	1980/81
					------Report Period------	
Accepted Cases	441	268	159	45	490	663
Advice	3,423	2,597	1,773	1,321	793	617
Divorce Contempts	395	335	371	690	486	632
Referrals to Private Attorneys, etc.	404	174	114	50	19	5
Total	4,663	3,374	2,417	2,106	1,788	1,917
					------Report Period------	

Civil Section

The Civil Section represents claimants financially unable to employ counsel in civil cases where the sum involved does not exceed $100. It also defends persons who are financially unable to employ counsel in civil litigations in which the persons are being persecuted or unjustly harassed.

The civil workload is restricted to the Los Angeles Civic Center Office because of insufficient staffing. Civil inquiries received by branch offices are referred to local Bar or Legal Aid Associations.

INVESTIGATION WORKLOAD BY TYPE

1975/76 - 1980/81

Proceeding	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	1978/79	1979/80	1980/81
					------Report Period------	
Conservatorship Acct. Audit	1,014	1,093	1,188	1,271	1,184	1,130
Felony	6,281	4,971	4,497	3,973	4,076	4,174
Juvenile	2,783	2,048	1,802	1,792	1,740	1,440
Misc. Felony & Civil	409	430	406	405	448	465
Misdemeanor	4,680	2,998	2,941	2,591	3,188	2,862
Other Inquiries/ Investigations	1,297	913	485	326	149	0
Total	16,464	12,453	11,319	10,358	10,785	10,071

------Report Period------

Investigation Section

The Investigation Section performs investigative work for adult and juvenile cases. At present, the majority of staffing is allocated to performing felony investigations. The workload listed in the table for Other Inquiries/Investigations involves principally, data collection activities which require a minimum amount of time.

REHABILITATION WORKLOAD BY TYPE OF PROCESS

1975/76 - 1980/81

Proceeding	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	1978/79	1979/80	1980/81
	------Report Period------					
New Cases - Felony	65	61	103	70	107	79
Certificates Granted	58	65	57	44	62	44
Closed Cases Other Than Certificates Granted	15	266	16	106	934	227
	------Report Period------					

Rehabilitation

Sections 4852.01 - 4852.21 of the Penal Code provides procedures for a felony defendant to obtain a Certificate of Rehabilitation and application for Pardon. The Public Defender is required under this section, to provide assistance to a defendant in obtaining the Certificate of Rehabilitation which is processed in the Superior Court.

CASE/PROCEEDINGS WORKLOAD BY TYPE

1975/76 - 1980/81

Case/Proceedings	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	1978/79	1979/80	1980/81
					------Report Period------	
Felony						
Arraignments/Prelim. Hrgs.	19,329	19,233	17,821	17,340	19,918	23,407
Arraignments/Trials Sup. Ct.	14,924	13,920	14,144	12,533	13,142	14,884
Narcotic Diversion - Sup.Ct.	3	8	5	1	0	0
Probation Violations-Sup.Ct.	9,301	8,540	8,784	7,994	7,633	8,052
Appeals-Ct. of App/Supreme1	449	465	547	362	393	318
Rehabilitation-Sup.Ct.1	65	61	103	70	107	79
Diversion Prog.Rep.-Sup.Ct.	77	93	77	93	96	131
Misdemeanor						
Arraignment/Trials	105,259	87,186	80,749	73,033	85,689	96,992
Arraignment/Trials-Traffic	72,880	72,320	62,563	56,825	60,701	64,651
Narcotic Diversion-Mun.Ct.	172	114	164	219	3,051	3,968
Appeals - Sup. Ct.1	371	433	309	272	397	519
Probation Violations-Mun.Ct.	16	8	342	1,923	10,145	13,375
Diversion Prog.Rep.-Mun.Ct.	15	12	411	1,490	2,094	1,872
Juvenile						
Petitions - Sup. Ct.	22,648	25,471	22,232	16,932	17,969	19,535
Other						
Civil - Sup/Mun. Ct.1	4,663	3,374	2,417	2,106	1,788	1,917
Conservatorship-Sup.Ct.	2,556	2,745	3,268	4,419	3,667	2,248
Conservatorship Acct.-Sup.Ct.	1,015	768	1,093	953	859	883
Fugitive Warrants-Mun.Ct.	770	838	854	933	782	[illegible]
Mental Health-Sup.Ct.	2,071	3,203	4,218	2,735	3,114	3,622
Misc.-Sup/Mun/Just. Cts.	3,019	2,627	2,208	2,265	2,317	2,177
Narcotic Referrals-Sup.Ct.	654	577	378	226	228	138
Total	260,257	241,996	222,687	202,724	234,090	261,737

Note: 1 - See following pages for additional data.

------Report Period------

SUMMARY OF

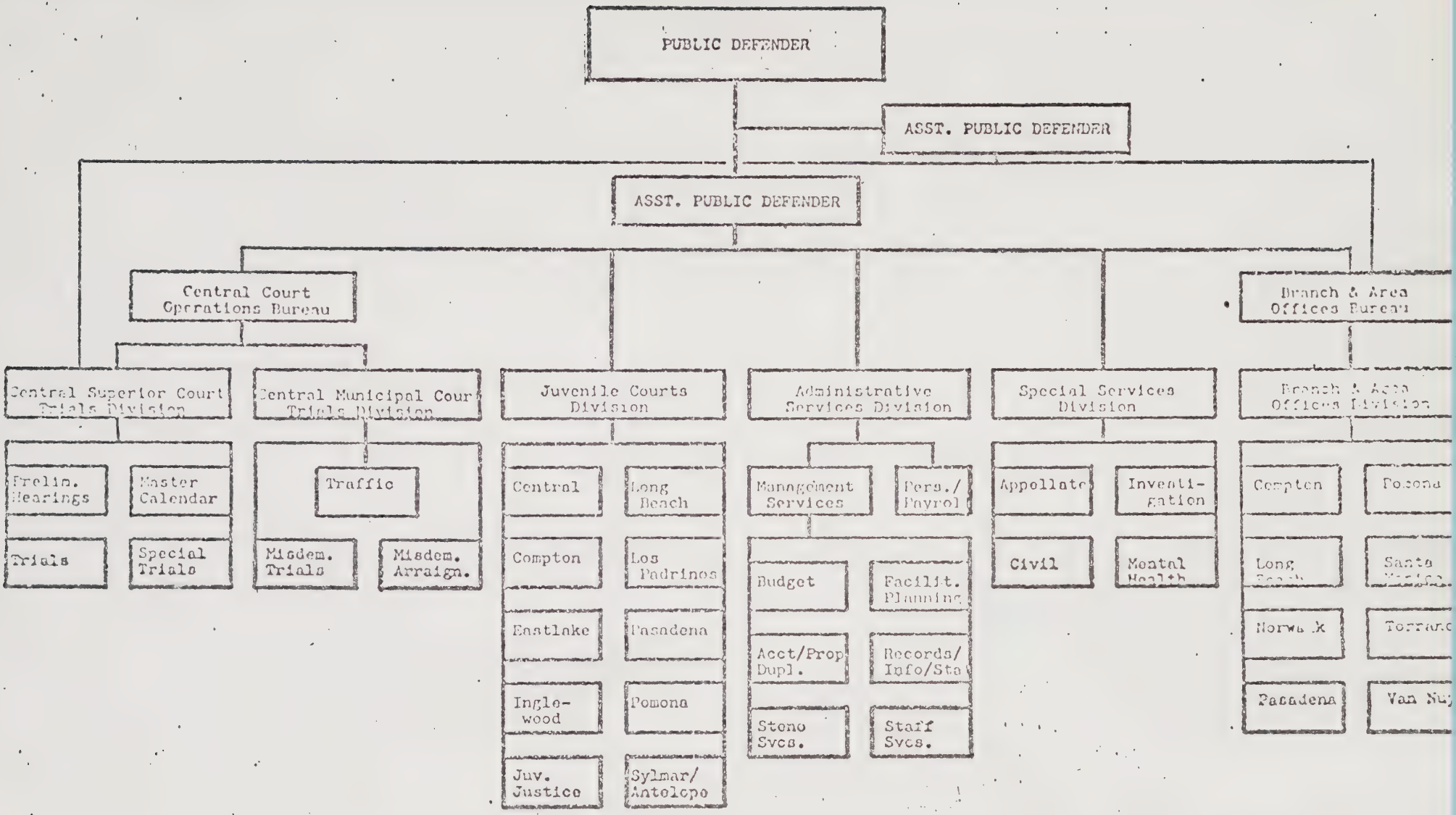
BUDGET EXPENDITURES, STAFFING AND WORKLOAD

1975/76 - 1980/81

					------Report Period------	
Budget Expenses	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	1978/79	1979/80	1980/81
Salaries	$13,769,393	$14,319,900	$15,473,351	$15,472,232	$24,145,588	$25,268,591
Services & Supplies	391,230	339,596	415,569	431,004	754,304	944,062
Equipment	17,863	472	470	286	16,589	12,455
Total	$14,178,486	$14,659,968	$15,889,390	$15,903,522	$24,916,481	$26,225,108
Staffing	593.8	570.8	568.8	538.8	568.2	566.86
Workload						
Case/Proceedings	260,257	241,996	222,687	202,724	234,090	261,737
Investigations	16,464	12,453	11,319	10,358	10,785	10,071

Note: Revenue

Revenue is not credited directly to the Public Defender budget. However, it is credited to the County by the Auditor-Controller. The source of revenue is primarily based on a 10% reimbursement by the State for local criminal defense activities from available State monies. However, the percentage received is substantially below that authorized. Such reimbursement is based on Public Defender activity and County-paid expenses for assigned counsel appointed by the Superior and Municipal Courts. Revenue received: 1975/76 - $348,318, 1976/77 - $352,548, 1977/78 - $363,144, 1978/79 - $476,534, 1979/80 - $309,578, 1980/81 - $405,858.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Central Court Operations Bureau
Branch & Area Offices Bureau
Central Superior Court Trials Division
Central Municipal Court Trials Division
Juvenile Courts Division
Administrative Services Division
Special Services Division
Branch & Area Offices Division
Prelim. Hearings
Master Calendar
Trials
Special Trials
Traffic
Misdem. Trials
Misdem. Arraign.
Central
Long Beach
Compton
Los Padrinos
Eastlake
Pasadena
Inglewood
Pomona
Juv. Justice
Sylmar/ Antelope
Management Services
Pers./ Payrol
Budget
Facilit. Planning
Acct/Prop Dupl.
Records/ Info/Sta
Steno Svcs.
Staff Svcs.
Appellate
Investigation
Civil
Mental Health
Compton
Pomona
Long Beach
Santa Monica
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